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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masayuki ORIHASHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2634

Appln. No. : 09/782,158

Examiner: Jason Perilla

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of March 29, 2004, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set to expire on June 29, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action together with consideration and allowance of all the claims pending herein, in due course.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 16 of this

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Remarks begin on page 20 of this paper.